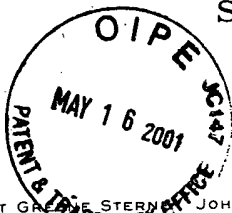


STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

1100 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. • WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3934

PHONE: (202) 371-2600 • FACSIMILE: (202) 371-2540 • www.skpf.com



3762

#2

ROBERT GREEN STERN
EDWARD J. KESSLER
JORGE A. GOLDSTEIN
SAMUEL L. FOX***
DAVID K.S. CORNWELL
ROBERT W. ESMOND
TRACY-GENE G. DURKIN
MICHELE A. CIMBALA
MICHAEL B. RAY
ROBERT E. SOKOHL
ERIC K. STEFFE
MICHAEL O. LEE
STEVEN R. LUDWIG

JOHN M. COVERT
LINDA E. ALCORN
ROBERT C. MILLONIG
MICHAEL V. MESSINGER
JUDITH U. KIM
TIMOTHY J. SHEA, JR.
DONALD R. MCPHAIL
PATRICK E. GARRETT
JEFFREY T. HELVEY*
HEIDI L. KRAUS
JEFFREY R. KURIN
RAYMOND MILLIEN
PATRICK D. O'BRIEN

LAWRENCE B. BUGAISKY
CRYSTAL D. SAYLES
EDWARD W. YEE
ALBERT L. FERRO*
DONALD R. BANOWIT
PETER A. JACKMAN
MOLLY A. MCCALL
TERESA U. MEDLER
JEFFREY S. WEAVER
KRISTIN K. VIDOVICH
KENDRICK P. PATTERSON
DONALD J. FEATHERSTONE
GRANT E. REED

VINCENT L. CAPUANO
JOHN A. HARROUN*
ALBERT J. FASULO II*
ELDORA ELLISON FLOYD*
W. RUSSELL SWINDELL
THOMAS C. FIALA
BRIAN J. DEL BUONO*
VIRGIL L. BEASTON*
RYAN J. STAMPER*
KAREN R. MARKOWICZ**
SUZANNE E. ZISKA**
ANDREA J. KAMAGE**
NANCY J. LEITH**

ELIZABETH J. HAANES**
MARK P. TERRY**
JOSEPH M. CONRAD, III**
DOUGLAS M. WILSON**
REGINALD D. LUCAS**
ANN E. SUMMERFIELD**
CYNTHIA M. BOUCHEZ**
HELENE C. CARLSON**
BRUCE E. CHALKER**
DUSTIN T. JOHNSON**
MATTHEW J. DOWD**

*LIMITED TO MATTERS
AND PROCEEDINGS BEFORE
FEDERAL COURTS & AGENCIES
**REGISTERED PATENT AGENT
***SENIOR COUNSEL

May 16, 2001

WRITER'S DIRECT NUMBER:

(202) 371-2643

INTERNET ADDRESS:

AFERRO@SKGF.COM

267/176-1

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Box Non-Fee

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application
Appl. No. 09/843,748; Filed: April 30, 2001
(Divisional of U.S. Utility Appl. No. 09/188,760; Filed: November 9, 1998)
For: **Soft Tip Guiding Catheter and Method of Fabrication**
Inventor: Thierry H. Benjamin
Our Ref: P640 DIV (1737.1750001/ALF/RJS)

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Information Disclosure Statement (in duplicate);
2. Form PTO-1449 (4 sheets); and
3. Return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

RECEIVED
MAY 17 2001
TC 3700 MAIL ROOM

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

Commissioner for Patents

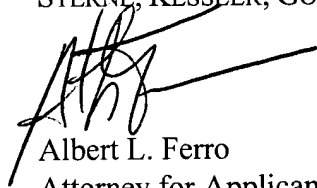
May 16, 2001

Page 2

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036. A duplicate copy of this letter is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Albert L. Ferro
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 44,679

ALF/RJS:hmb

Enclosures

P:\USERS\HBEALE\RJS\1737\1750001\1750001\pto\5-3-01.pto.ltr
SKGF Rev. 4/27/00 mac

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



In re application of:

Thierry H. Benjamin

Appl. No. 09/843,748

Filed: April 30, 2001

For: **Soft Tip Guiding Catheter and
Method of Fabrication**

Confirmation No.

Art Unit: To Be Assigned

Examiner: To Be Assigned

Atty. Docket: P640 DIV
(1737.1750001/ALF/RJS)

Information Disclosure Statement

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Listed on accompanying Form PTO-1449 are documents that may be considered material to the examination of this application, in compliance with the duty of disclosure requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98.

Applicants reserve the right to establish the patentability of the claimed invention over any of the information provided herewith, and/or to prove that this information may not be prior art, and/or to prove that this information may not be enabling for the teachings purportedly offered.

This statement should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made, or that information more material to the examination of the present patent application does not exist. The Examiner is specifically requested not to rely solely on the material submitted herewith.

Applicants have checked the appropriate boxes below.

- ☒ 1. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the date of filing of a national application other than a continued prosecution

RECEIVED
MAY 17 2001
TC 3700 MAIL ROOM

application (CPA), OR within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.491 in an international application, OR before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits OR before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. No statement or fee is required.

- ☐ 2. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection, or Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application.
 - ☐ a. I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1).
 - ☐ b. I hereby state that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2).
 - ☐ c. Attached is our Check No. _____ in the amount of \$ _____ in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).
- ☐ 3. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date and after the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance, but before payment of the Issue Fee. Enclosed find our Check No. _____ in the amount of \$ _____ in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p); in addition:
 - ☐ a. I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign

patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1).

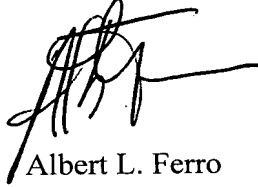
- ☐ b. I hereby state that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2).
- ☐ 4. The document(s) was/were cited in a search report by a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application. Submission of an English language version of the search report that indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign office is provided in satisfaction of the requirement for a concise explanation of relevance. 1138 OG 37, 38.
- ☐ 5. A concise explanation of the relevance of the non-English language document(s) appears below:
- ☒ 6. Copies of the documents were cited by or submitted to the Office in an IDS that complies with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)-(c) in Application No. 09/188,760, filed November 9, 1998, which is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120. Thus, copies of these documents are not attached. 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d).

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner initial and return a copy of the enclosed PTO-1449, and indicate in the official file wrapper of this patent application that the documents have been considered.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036. A duplicate copy of this pleading is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Albert L. Ferro
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 44,679

Date: May 16, 2001

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Suite 600
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600

#2

FORM PTO-1449 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT	ATTY. DOCKET NO. P640 DIV (1737.1750001/ALF/RJS)	APPLICATION NO. 09/843,748
	APPLICANT Thierry H. Benjamin	
	FILING DATE April 30, 2001	GROUP To Be Assigned 3762

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE
AA1	4,283,447	08/1981	Flynn			
AB1	4,531,943	07/1985	Van Tassel <i>et al.</i>			
AC1	4,540,404	09/1985	Wolvek			
AD1	4,551,292	11/1985	Fletcher <i>et al.</i>			
AE1	4,563,181	01/1986	Wijayarathna <i>et al.</i>			
AF1	4,863,442	09/1989	DeMello <i>et al.</i>			
AG1	4,886,506	12/1989	Lovgren <i>et al.</i>			
AH1	4,899,787	02/1990	Ouchi <i>et al.</i>			
AI1	4,921,483	05/1990	Wijay <i>et al.</i>			
AJ1	4,931,037	06/1990	Wetterman			
AK1	5,078,702	01/1992	Pomeranz			

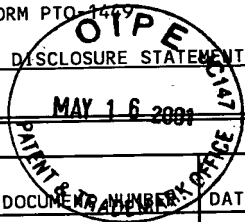
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	TRANSLATION
AL1	WO 89/09634	10/1989	Europe			Yes No
AM1	EP0850653A2	01/1998	Europe			Yes No
AN1						Yes No
AO1						Yes No
AP1						Yes No

OTHER (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)		
AR	1	
AS	1	
AT	1	

RECEIVED
 MAY 17 2001
 TC 3700 MAIL ROOM

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
----------	-----------------

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.

FORM PTO-1449 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT 	ATTY. DOCKET NO. P640 DIV (1737.1750001/ALF/RJS)	APPLICATION NO. 09/843,748
	APPLICANT Thierry H. Benjamin	
	FILING DATE April 30, 2001	GROUP To Be Assigned <i>3702</i>

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE
	AA2	5,160,559	11/1992	Scovil <i>et al.</i>			
	AB2	5,178,158	01/1993	de Toledo			
	AC2	5,205,830	04/1993	Dassa <i>et al.</i>			
	AD2	5,221,270	06/1993	Parker			
	AE2	5,234,416	08/1993	Macaulay <i>et al.</i>			
	AF2	5,240,537	08/1993	Bodicky			
	AG2	5,279,596	01/1994	Castaneda <i>et al.</i>			
	AH2	5,292,311	03/1994	Cope			
	A12	5,342,383	08/1994	Thomas			
	AJ2	5,366,442	11/1994	Wang <i>et al.</i>			
	AK2	5,509,910	04/1996	Lunn			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	TRANSLATION
	AL2						Yes No
	AM2						Yes No
	AN2						Yes No
	AO2						Yes No
	AP2						Yes No

OTHER (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)


	AR	2	
	AS	2	
	AT	2	

RECEIVED
MAY 17 2001
TC 3700 MAIL ROOM

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.

 <p>FORM PTO-1449 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</p>	ATTY. DOCKET NO. P640 DIV (1737.1750001/ALF/RJS)	APPLICATION NO. 09/843,748
	APPLICANT Thierry H. Benjamin	
	FILING DATE April 30, 2001	GROUP To Be Assigned <u>3762</u>

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE
	AA3	5,545,149	08/1996	Brin <i>et al.</i>		
	AB3	5,569,221	10/1996	Houser <i>et al.</i>		
	AC3	5,653,697	08/1997	Quiachon <i>et al.</i>		
	AD3	5,676,659	10/1997	McGurk		
	AE3	5,683,370	11/1997	Luther <i>et al.</i>		
	AF3	5,725,513	03/1998	Ju <i>et al.</i>		
	AG3	5,733,400	03/1998	Gore <i>et al.</i>		
	AH3	5,738,666	04/1998	Watson <i>et al.</i>		
	AI3	5,738,742	04/1998	Stevens		
	AJ3	5,755,704	05/1998	Lunn		
	AK3	5,811,043	09/1998	Horrigan <i>et al.</i>		

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	TRANSLATION
	AL3					Yes
						No
	AM3					Yes
						No
	AN3					Yes
						No
	AO3					Yes
						No
	AP3					Yes
						No

OTHER (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

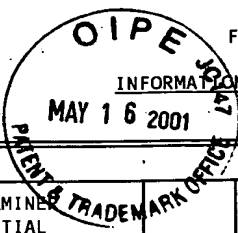
AR	<u>3</u>	
AS	<u>3</u>	
AT	<u>3</u>	

RECEIVED
MAY 17 2001
TC 3700 MAIL ROOM

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.

 FORM PTO-1449 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT				ATTY. DOCKET NO. P640 DIV (1737.1750001/ALF/RJS)		APPLICATION NO. 09/843,748	
				APPLICANT Thierry H. Benjamin			
				FILING DATE April 30, 2001		GROUP To Be Assigned 3762	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE
	AA4	5,836,925	11/1998	Soltz			
	AB4	5,897,537	04/1999	Berg <i>et al.</i>			
	AC4	5,906,605	05/1999	Coxum			
	AD4	5,938,653	08/1999	Pepin			
	AE4	5,971,975	10/1999	Mills <i>et al.</i>			
	AF4	5,993,415	11/1999	O'Neil <i>et al.</i>			
	AG4						
	AH4						
	AI4						
	AJ4						
	AK4						

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	TRANSLATION
	AL4						Yes No
	AM4						Yes No
	AN4						Yes No
	AO4						Yes No
	AP4						Yes No

OTHER (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)			
	AR	4	
	AS	4	
	AT	4	

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
----------	-----------------

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.

 RECEIVED
 MAY 17 2001
 TC 3700 MAIL ROOM